

From: Petre Scheie
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/10/01 2:02pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello-

I am writing to express my opinion that the proposed settlement in the Microsoft Anti-Trust case is too favorable to Microsoft and will do little to prevent it from unfairly computer industry. Specifically, according to a recent article by Robert Cringley, (<http://www.pbs.org/cringely/pulpit/pulpit20011206.html>):

"Section III(J)(2) contains some very strong language against not-for-profits. Specifically, the language
says that it need not describe nor license
API, Documentation, or Communications Protocols affecting
authentication and authorization to companies
that don't meet Microsoft's criteria as a business: "... (c)
meets reasonable, objective standards
established by Microsoft for certifying the authenticity and
viability of its business, ..." "

I see no reason why Microsoft should be exempt from providing APIs, etc. only to business, and worse, only to businesses it deems as viable. Microsoft should be forced to publish its APIs, communication protocols and documentation for all to see. The current wording would, among others, allow Microsoft to not reveal those details to the government because it is not a business. And make no mistake, as it has shown repeatedly, Microsoft will try to exploit every loophole to its advantage.

Thank you.

Petre Scheie
System Administrator